



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

9/22

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

09/389,915

09/03/1999

LAWRENCE LAM

APLIP193/P23

6044

22434

7590

10/12/2004

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS LLP

P.O. BOX 778

BERKELEY, CA 94704-0778

EXAMINER

CHANG, YEAN HSI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2835

DATE MAILED: 10/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/389,915

Applicant(s)

LAM ET AL.

Examiner

Yean-Hsi Chang

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-30,39-49,81-102 and 109-119 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-30,81-87,102,109-113 and 116 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 39,40,88-95,100 and 101 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 41-49,96-99,114,115 and 117-119 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 September 1999 and 27 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/5/04,3/15/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on Jan. 5, 2004 has been entered.

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claims 40, 45 and 85 are objected to because of the following informalities: The "the opening" in claim 14, the "the translucent portion" in claim 40, the "said light diffuser" in claim 45, the "said openings" in claim 85, and the "the display apparatus" and "the display device" in claims 101 and 102 lack antecedent bases. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 88-93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ng et al. (US 5,222,076).

Ng teaches a computing system (fig. 4) comprising: a housing (12, fig. 1) having a translucent portion (18, fig. 1), the housing enclosing internally various components (20 and 88, fig. 4) that provide computing operations for the computing system, and a light source (20, fig. 1) disposed inside the housing, said light source being configured to produce light inside said housing so as to illuminate at least a portion of said translucent portion (see col. 3, lines 36-39) (claim 88); wherein the computing device or system is a portable computer (87, fig. 4) (claims 89-90); and wherein the light source is a LCD (see col. 7, lines 20-22) (claims 91-93).

5. Claims 100 and 101 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Owen et al. (US 5,450,221).

Owen teaches a computer monitor (10, fig. 2) comprising: a housing (66+80, fig. 1) having a translucent wall (wall of 66, fig. 1; not labeled) and an opening (on 80, fig. 1) for a display screen (66, fig. 1), and a light source (38, fig. 1) for illuminating the display screen and at least a portion of the translucent wall (shown in fig. 1) (claim 100); and a

cosmetic shield (64, fig. 1) disposed between the display screen and the translucent wall (claim 101).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 39-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis et al. in view of Vessa (US 5,008,870).

Lewis teaches a computer monitor (50, fig. 5) comprising: a flat panel display (73+66, fig. 5) that emits light in a forward direction and in a back direction when active, an outer shell (77, fig. 5) for providing a housing for at least a rear portion of said computer monitor (claim 39); and a light diffuser (75, fig. 5) provided between the flat panel display and the outer shell (claim 40).

Lewis fails to teach the outer shell including a transparent portion through which a portion of the light emitted by said flat panel display in the back direction is able to pass and to produce multi-color illuminated design.

Vessa teaches an outer shell (1, fig. 1) of a monitor (7, fig. 2) being transparent (see col. 2, lines 32-33) for decorating and advertisement purposes.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Lewis with the outer shell taught by Vessa for decorating and advertisement purposes.

8. Claims 94 and 95 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ng et al. in view of Lewis et al. (US 5,422,751).

Ng discloses the claimed invention except showing the light source producing light in first and second directions.

Lewis teaches a LCD light source (73+66, fig. 5) producing light in first and second directions wherein the light produced in the first direction passes through an opening in the housing, and wherein the light produced in the second direction passes through the back of the housing (shown in fig. 5).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Ng with the light source taught by Lewis for the purpose of letting the display to be seen in the dark.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

9. Claims 1-2, 4-30, 81-87, 102, 109-113 and 116 are allowed.

10. Claims 41-49, 96-99, 114-115 and 117-119 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The best prior art of record, Ng et al. (US 5,222,076), Owen et al. (US 5,450,221), Vessa (US 5,008,870), Lewis et al. (US 5,422,751), Bejin (US 5,406,729), and Ohgami et al. (US 5,689,400), taken alone or in combination fails to teach or fairly suggest: a display apparatus comprising a housing substantial portions being translucent, and a cosmetic shield provided between said housing and a frame supporting a LCD panel, to mask said frame and said LCD panel from being visible through the substantial translucent portions of said housing as set forth in claim 1; a computer monitor comprising a housing substantial portions being translucent, and a cosmetic shield provided between said housing and a light source provided in said housing, to mask said light source from being visible through the substantial translucent portions of said housing as set forth in claim 19; a method for illuminating a design in a translucent housing by passing a portion of light reflected from a reflecting surface through an opening of a cosmetic shield provided between said housing and a light panel as set forth in claim 28; a computer monitor comprising a light diffuser being a label as set forth in claim 41, and being able to substantially normalize the intensity of the light being emitted through the transparent portion across flat panel displays with substantially different characteristics in the light emitted in the back direction as set forth in claim 45; a computer monitor comprising light emitted by a flat panel display, passing through a translucent portion of an outer shell and producing a multi-color illuminated design as set forth in claim 42; a computer monitor comprising a light guide that receives a portion of the light emitted in a back direction by a flat panel display, and

Art Unit: 2835

directs the portion of the received light to a predetermined destination for illumination of a feature as set forth in claim 46; a portable computer comprising a display unit including a flat panel display and a translucent outer shell as set forth in claim 81; a computing system comprising a cosmetic shield disposed between a light source inside a housing, and a substantial translucent portion of the housing, the cosmetic shield having a light blocking portion and a light passing portion as set forth in claim 96; a computer monitor comprising an EMI shield disposed between a display screen and a translucent wall of a housing as set forth in claim 102; and a portable computer comprising a cosmetic shield disposed between a flat panel display and a translucent outer shell of a display unit, said cosmetic shield including a reflective surface and a masking opening for allowing light emitted from the flat panel display to pass therethrough for illuminating a portion of said outer shell as set forth in claim 109.

Claims 2 and 4-18 depend from claim 1; claims 20-27 depend from claim 19; claims 29-30 depend from claim 28; claim 43-44 depend from claim 42; claims 47-49, 114-115 and 117-119 depend from claim 46; claims 82-87 and 116 depend from claim 81; claims 97-99 depend from claim 96; and claims 110-113 depend from claim 109.

### ***Correspondence***

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yean-Hsi Chang whose telephone number is (571) 272-2038. The examiner can normally be reached on 07:30-16:00.



Art Unit: 2835

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Art Unit phone number is (571) 272-2800, ext. 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3431 for regular communications and for After Final communications. There are RightFax numbers and provide the fax sender with an auto-reply fax verifying receipt by the USPTO: Before-Final (703-872-9318) and After-Final (703-872-9319).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-8558.

Yean-Hsi Chang  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit: 2835  
October 4, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yean-Hsi Chang', written in a cursive style.